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17. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein said status information retrieved by said status information retrieval means is contained on a second computer physically remote from a first computer on which said status information is stored and accessible via a network.

20. (Twice Amended) An update processing and transmission method, including:

storing status information relating to a commerce-related event;

retrieving said status information;

automatically generating a status message reflective of said status information; and

automatically forwarding said status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party.

22. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said status information retrieved is contained on a first computer physically remote from a second computer which stores the status information.

24. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising separately storing said status information.